

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 6, 2004. Claims 1-36 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 5, 12, 20-26, 30 and 33-36 are in independent form, and have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention; in addition, dependent Claims 10 and 17 have been amended as well. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 10 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Those claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the point raised in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,715,764 (Tomory).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a data processing apparatus that can transmit a printing job to an image recording apparatus having plural holding units each capable of holding plural sheets or an image recording apparatus capable of connecting with an option apparatus having plural holding units. The data processing apparatus of Claim 1 comprises holding unit

name registration means. These means, in order to register plural discrimination names including a user name and names of plural groups to which a user corresponding to the user name belongs for each of the plural holding units of the image recording apparatus, accept designation of the user name and the names of the plural groups to which the user corresponding to the user name belongs, and transmit the designation content to the image recording apparatus. Also provided are holding unit name capture means for capturing the plural discrimination names registered to each of the holding units from the image recording apparatus. Job creation means are provided, for accepting, when creating the printing job, designation that the plural discrimination names captured by the holding unit name capture means are set as sheet discharge addresses of the printing job, and actually creating the printing job including the accepted sheet discharge address designation by the plural discrimination names. In addition, according to Claim 1, the job creation means enable selective setting of the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the user name and the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name with respect to each job.

Tomory relates to document routing, and provides a system in which, if the print engine is occupied performing a print job, a controller provides an indication to that effect to a user who is trying to set up a second print job. In such an instance, the *Tomory* system gives the user the ability to have the second job developed while the first is being printed, and then second

job can either be printed after completion of the first, or can be sent to the user's mailbox, or sent to a remote destination in the network, and in particular can be output to a bin specified by the user.

Even if *Tomory* thus discloses sheets being discharged into a bin designated by a user, however, that is nothing more than the related background art of the present application pointed out in Applicant's specification. As might be expected, the *Tomory* system cannot cope with the problems pointed out in the related background art of the present application, and, in fact, does not provide any consideration or analysis of those problems, nor even hint at a solution, much less the specific solution provided by Applicant's respective independent claims.

In particular, nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Tomory* that would teach or suggest job creation means that, among other features, enables a user to set, selectively, the designation of the sheet discharge address based on user name and on a designation of a sheet discharge address based on a group name with respect to each job, as recited in Claim 1.

Independent Claim 5 is directed to a data processing apparatus which can transmit a printing job to an image recording apparatus having plural holding units or an image recording apparatus capable of connecting with an option apparatus having plural holding units. The data processing apparatus of Claim 5 comprises holding unit name capture means for capturing from the image recording apparatus plural discrimination names registered to each of the holding units

of the image recording apparatus. According to Claim 5, those plural discrimination names include a user name and names of plural groups to which a user corresponding to the user name belongs. The apparatus also comprises job creation means for accepting, when creating the printing job, designation that the plural discrimination names captured by the holding unit name capture means are set as sheet discharge addresses of the printing job, and actually creating the printing job including the accepted sheet discharge address designation by the plural discrimination names. The job creation means enables to set, selectively, the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the user name and the designation of the sheet discharge address based on the group name with respect to each job.

Thus, Claim 5 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Tomory* for at least the same reasons as is Claim 1.

Independent Claim 12 is directed to an image recording apparatus which also has this feature, among other important ones, and is deemed allowable over *Tomory* for the same reasons.

Independent Claims 20-25 are each either a method or a storage medium claim corresponding to one or another of apparatus Claims 1, 5 and 12, and these six claims are therefore each believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Independent Claim 26 is directed to an image recording apparatus which can connect with a sheet processing apparatus having plural storage units capable of storing sheets,

and which comprises reception means for receiving data including image data from a remote data processing apparatus, and image recording means for recording an image based on the received image data, on a sheet. also provided in the apparatus are control means for performing control, according as first data instructing to distribute the sheets to the storage unit belonging to which of plural groups of the grouped storage units is included in the data received from the remote apparatus, to distribute the sheets on which the image data from the remote apparatus has been recorded to the storage unit belonging to the group according to the first data. Also, according to Claim 26, the control means enables the image recording apparatus to accept the printing job in which the first data is selectively set with respect to each job.

At the least, the control means of Claim 26 is believed not to be taught or suggested by anything in *Tomory*

Independent Claim 30 is directed to a data processing apparatus which can transmit data including image data to be recorded, to an image recording apparatus capable of connecting with a sheet processing apparatus having plural storage units capable of storing sheets. The data processing apparatus of Claim 30 comprises generation means for generating first data based on an operator's instruction for instructing to distribute the sheets to the storage units belonging to which of plural groups of the grouped storage units, and transmission means for correlating the first data with the image data and transmitting the correlated data to the image

recording apparatus. Also provided in the apparatus are setting means for enabling to set whether or not to set the first data with respect to each job.

At the least, the setting means of Claim 26 is believed not to be taught or suggested by anything in *Tomory*

Independent Claims 33-36 are each either a method or a storage medium claim corresponding to one or the other of apparatus Claims 26 and 30, and these four claims are therefore each believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

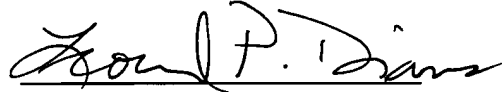
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims each depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leoanrd P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

Leoanrd P. Diana
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 463226v1